



THREE PRETTY BODIES FOR AN INFORMAL DAY AT HOME.

AN INFORMAL DAY AT HOME.

What to Wear When Expecting a Few Family Friends for a New Year's Greeting.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—New York society has divided itself into three factions.

First, those who do not keep open house on New Year's day.

Second, those who keep house all day long and are at home to every one who passes the electric button.

Third, those who observe New Year's day in the very up-to-date style which means the giving of a big dinner at 10 o'clock, followed by a different dinner at 12.

Not more than twenty people are invited to the dinner, or at most thirty. These are for the most part elderly people—society leaders and all the people of note who can be gathered together.

Then come the young folk in the dinner dance. They arrive at 10, are received by the hostess, and the gay dance begins, to break up only at daylight, January 2.

By far the largest number of New Yorkers will belong to the second faction, namely, those who will hang out the latch string all day and will have a cordial greeting for such as may care to call.

This is a little old-fashioned, it will be admitted, but it is so cordial, so pretty and so inexpensive, that it will become a favorite again.

NEW YEAR GOWNS.

Such pretty dresses have been designed to be worn at these home occasions. It is considered rather bad form to dress in evening dress for New Year's calls, especially when callers come all day. Therefore there is nothing prettier than the wearing of a handsome bodice with a trimmed skirt and plenty of small decorations, such as jewels and lace. This is the time of times when a woman makes herself look attractive, and she must always remember that to the masculine eye, it is not the cost of a gown that counts, but the prettiness.

It is safe to say that to the eye of a New Year caller such a simple toilette as a seashell pink waist with a bolero of yellow lace, will look prettier than all the broaded satins in the world.

One very staid New York hostess will wear a waist of bodice of this same seashell pink with a bolero effect of cream lace studded with pearls. Around the armhole there, will be a jacket

shaped like a caught in Greek form, vest of ruby velvet lined with seashell pink silk.

Such dresses will have rather full puffs in these days of puffless sleeves, made of the seashell material. The puffs will be caught up with bands of silk headed with pearls. Around the neck there will be a stock of ruby velvet with a deep ruffle of cream lace studded with pearls, and the belt will consist of a broad rope of velvet ribbon tied at one side and falling to the floor. As the hostess is seen, she can wear a waist of this full description very nicely.

A RECEPTION DRESS.

Another young woman in the same family has chosen for her New Year's reception gown a Princess of plain silk of brightest color. The bodice is trimmed with bands of white satin ribbon studded with medallions. There is a handsome square neck ruffle of very finely embroidered chiffon. The neck is finished with a ruche of chiffon which extends down the front of the waist.

Another New Year hostess who will receive in most informal fashion will wear a bodice of a rich blue velvet with a stock of pale blue velvet with immense embroidered ends finishing the back of the neck.

The whole struggle for prettiness

and becomingness without more than a passing regard for the up-to-date fashion. When a fashion is unbecoming it is freely discarded on these occasions, for the women dress for the masculine eye and not for the critical feminine one.

A great many handsome corset bodices will be worn, for at holiday time a woman receives many floral offerings and she cannot do better than wear them. There is something refreshing in wearing a gift of flowers as every woman knows, and when these are numerous she can freshen her floral decorations several times a day.

Those who are not fortunate enough to have many gifts of flowers can wear the artificial ones, which are very pretty this year. They come highly scented and so well made that it is impossible to tell the real from the artificial.

Many people prefer the wearing of artificial flowers because they do not soil the bodice. They can be arranged more becomingly than the natural flowers and they neither droop nor wither. Rather a pretty mode of wearing them is at the side of the waist just at the armhole. They are sewed upon the bodice before it is put on and afterwards a few natural green leaves are added to make them seem more natural.

The hair is very elaborately dressed

for New Year's day and the largest, fanciest designs in combs will be worn. There are many new designs in these combs and doubtless they have been included in holiday gifts. If you are thinking of purchasing another gift, by all means let it be a handsome comb or an aigrette, for nothing in the way of a feminine treasure is more highly acceptable.

The New Year hostess who is at home all day does not wear gloves. In fact the only time that a New Year hostess could possibly be excused for wearing gloves would be in the hall room for the dinner dance after the dinner is over.

The innovation of gloves was started last year by a New York hostess who stood all the evening in her drawing room elaborately dressed in décolleté with gloves to the elbow. But it was not a popular innovation and as a caller expressed it, "It made him chilly to be received at arm's length with finger tips."

The New Year hostess may handle a fan and a vinaigrette, but not a long net. There is something formal about the latter which is forbidden. A whole book might be written on the etiquette of the New Year hostess, but it can be summed up in a revised Golden Rule, "Receive your friends on New Year's

day as you would have your friends receive you on other days."

NEW YEAR SOUVENIRS.

There is a fad in Gotham for the giving of little souvenirs to callers. The gentleman who calls to wish you a happy New Year takes away with him a trifle as a remembrance of the day. It may be a tiny celluloid calendar, or the smallest of silver glove buttoners or the very tiniest stamp case.

Some little article which is laid in the hand with a pretty word of greeting by the hostess as he wishes her a Happy New Year. Through some touch of sentiment it is tied with a blue ribbon and the gentleman, if he be pretty minded may tie it as a trimming to his watch chain to be worn—until he makes the next call.

Many callers take with them a very handsomely decorated Happy New Year card with a very pretty sentiment engraved upon it along with the name, but this is not obligatory and is by some of the very conservative men considered too chatty-like to suit the very formal ideas of New York etiquette.

HELEN WARD.

CYRANO OUTCLASSED.

Gamin Who Knew More Remarkable "Reaks" Than His.

"Punk," was the criticism of one gamin to another as they left the top gallery of a downtown theater one night last week. They had laid themselves out for seats to see a performance of "Cyrano De Bergerac."

"It's what I call a brace game. Never saw show bills 'at tied so thunderingly as dem about dat fellow Berckack's nose. Why, I knows heaks down on Clark street dat can give dat nose of his cards and spades. And dey're de real 'ting at that. His'n ain't got no color 't'ot at all. Some of dem I'm 'quainted' wid as good 't'ent for de art gallery or for Christmas gifts."

"Say," said his companion, "dey's cops on de beat over on Halsted street where me bunk is w'at have smellers dat can give dat handle of Berckack's a mile and den distance it. And de idea of de bloke chewin' de poetry rag w'ile he's fightin'. After dis me dough is only goin' to be coughed up for 'Murdered w'ile His Mudder.' 'Dead, Yet Alive,' or some of dem real dramas w'at's got de hot stuff in dem."

"You bet," acquiesced the first critic, "dey can't never con me no more with pickers of a swell smeller."—Chicago Chronicle.

SOME EXQUISITE NEW UNDERWEAR.

Miss Goodwin Describes the Latest Paris Creations in Lingerie.

WORN WITH HOLIDAY GOWNS.

Dressed in Clinging Skirts the Fashionable Grown-Up Girls Very Stylish—The Use of Lace in Underwear—Corset Covers.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—I had the pleasure the other day, the very unique pleasure of witnessing the farewell revelry at a young ladies' boarding school in Paris.

In Paris, where girls go to school until they are grown up, there are a great many of these fashionable seminaries. At the age of twelve a girl is placed in such an institution to remain until she is eighteen. During that time she makes brief calls home during the holidays, living the rest of her life in the convent.

When she emerges she is ready to take her place in society as debutante; meanwhile she lives the life of a little girl, and enjoys a child's sports.

Notwithstanding the fact that the young women are taught the demure ways of young ladyhood, their girlish spirits break forth in wild revelry, and during the evening, in the hour given them before bedtime they have the greatest set of good times. They dance, sing, and accompany each other to the mandolin and violin.

These musical revelries are outwardly condemned by the nuns, who have charge of the girls, but the good women smile and turn away their heads; for they are sightless and earless when good times are concerned. They are the sweetest and most tender hearted women in the world, and to be consigned to their tender mercies is better, yes, a far better fate than to be subjected to the uncertain tempers of fashionable mamma who are swayed by the fluctuations of society.

imitation now by the yard, to be used for insertion. Corset covers are made from it, and even whole skirts. These entire Valenciennes skirts are worn over silk petticoats, giving a very much trimmed lace effect, as you can imagine. They are worn only in the house as they are too delicate for winter wear in the streets. They are no more expensive than silk skirts, for in these days of fancy silk skirts, very great expense is incurred in their manufacture. I noticed several sets of underwear that were severely plain, though most exquisitely wrought in convent fashion. One young woman wore a corset cover that had not even an edge of trimming. It was hemstitched around the neck and armholes and around the waist. The entire skirt was perfectly plain finished with hemstitched tucks above the hem. Another which was also perfectly plain was hand embroidered and was doubtless made under the judicious eyes of the careful nuns. Nothing can exceed the fanciness of this handwork which is so delicate, that it looks and feels like lace. The girls take great pride in doing this sort of work, and any convent head woman will tell you how faithfully she tried to measure her stitches and cut each thread with the mechanical precision taught by the nuns.

GROWN-UP UNDERWEAR.

Women who go in society and wear the clinging dresses of the season are inventing a sort of tight fitting underwear which does not add to the figure. The idea of tightness exhibited in the form of a conventional garment to be worn without skirts is so obnoxious to many women that they will not cherish it. It seems unfeminine to wear a set of tights and nothing else; and the soul of a woman revolts against putting on a dress over a set of tights.

A decidedly new material for a skirt was a clinging one, made of white China silk, which gives no fullness at all to the figure. The skirt was fitted to the hips very closely and was set upon a very narrow band also of silk, which buttoned around the lower edge of the corset, thus taking away all fullness from the waist. The skirt fitted tight to the knees, then widened out very full. As it was to be worn with an evening dress it was a demi-train and lay upon the floor several inches in train.

The combining of silk and India lawn is very common and you see them used together all the time. Both wash with equal beauty; and, in the hands of the proper laundress, are brought up from the laundry as fresh as though from the hands of the seamstress.

These articles of underwear are simple



"TIGHT FITTING UNDERWEAR WHICH DOES NOT ADD TO THE FIGURE"

Just before coming home for the winter the young women receive consignments of goods, or as it may be otherwise expressed, they get boxes of Christmas things, mainly clothing, which they are to wear during the holiday vacations. Very few of them come home for more than a day or two, the remainder of the holiday being spent at the home of some fashionable girl friend who lives in London perhaps, or in Liverpool, or even in Berlin, for they come from all over Europe to the Paris schools.

It would be to the lasting disgrace of a fashionable woman of any of these cities to allow her daughter, a girl of eighteen, on the verge of a society debut, to go visiting without a suitable outfit; and therefore the boxes that arrive at the convent holiday week are heavy. Often a girl's future status in society is determined by the school friends she makes.

The scene I witnessed at the young ladies' boarding school was one of indescribable grace. It was the eight o'clock revelry and the girls were decked out gaily in Christmas underwear with hair a-toss, dancing and singing the hour away.

As a fashion writer, though a guest, I noted their pretty underwear; and, knowing it to be the very latest from Paris creations, I sketched it for the benefit of my readers.

One of the young women, who was a very pretty Russian girl from St. Petersburg, had slipped off her gown and was dancing right merrily. She wore a petticoat of white tulle with a finger wide, This is the easily frayed lace which has been condemned of late years on account of the difficulty in laundering it. But, with care, it can be done very nicely. The unique feature of the petticoat, the one which attracted me most, was that it seemed to be worn under the shorter skirt. It looked as though the order had been reversed and the short skirt put on the outside. It was trimmed like the other, although it had no ruffles around the hem.

CORSET COVER.

The corset cover was a very pretty piece of notch lace shirred upon the shoulder and under the arms. It was brought down to the belt where it was fastened with pearl buttons and was buttoned to a belt which was also of notch lace. This was the finest kind of a corset cover and was decidedly one of beauty. It could be worn with an evening gown; for, even should it show at the neck, it would have a very lace-like effect.

Valenciennes lace is worn a great deal in the same way. This lace comes in the

to make and a girl can easily fashion them herself. The silk is not hard upon her hands and the lawn falls into shape so beautifully that it is a pleasure to ruffle and sew it.

Her Guide Was Blind.

Even when blessed with steady nerves a woman is apt to fear the trip across State street at the intersection of a busy thoroughfare. To a timid woman the journey, when unaccompanied by a male protector, is simply a terror. Almost any masculine will do, even a boy being regarded as some protection. One day last week a woman past middle life came to the crossing at State and Madison and paused in fear of the street cars, cabs and heavy wagons that crowded the broad thoroughfare. As she hesitated a man came along and paused beside her. He was a well-dressed man and carried a heavy cane, which he used constantly as if he might be a little lame.

"Sir," said the lady to him, "may I ask you to offer me the protection of your arm in crossing the street?" She said this in a very sweet and lady-like way, and the man with the cane touched his hat.

"Certainly, madam," he replied, and offered her his arm. As they crossed the street the man with the cane was very careful. He halted several times, but their combined progress was without mishap. As the lady let go of his arm she said:

"Thank you, sir, for your courtesy and protection."

"You are quite welcome, madam," he replied. "But I fear you overvalue my protection—because I am blind."

And, touching his hat again, he turned and picked his way along the crowded sidewalk.—Chicago Chronicle.

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